[24th March 1934

Mr. M. DEVADASAN:—"May I know whether and when the Government are going to fill up the vacancies referred to in the list given in the appendix?"

The Hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"The Government will fill up these vacancies permanently soon."

Mr. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"May I know whether there is a proposal for direct recruitment for these posts from the Bar?"

The Hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"No, Sir."

Electricity

Failure of the licensee of the Calicut Electric Installation to carry out the terms of the licence.

* 857 *Q.*—B. POCKER SAHIB Bahadur: Will the Hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government granted licence to any one for installation of electricity in Calicut town, and, if so, when and to whom;

(*b*) what the conditions are under which the licence, if any, was granted and whether such conditions were fulfilled and whether such licensee has carried out the purpose of the licence;

(*c*) whether the Government had reason to know that the licensee is not in a position to carry out the purpose of the licence;

(*d*) whether the Municipal Council, Calicut, ever asked the Government to grant the licence to them for the installation of electricity in Calicut, and, if so, whether the Government refused to comply with the request, and why;

(*e*) whether the Government had approved of the proposal of the licensee to assign the licence to any third party and whether the request of the Municipal Council, Calicut, to grant the licence to them was before the Government when they approved of the proposal to transfer the licence;

(*f*) what the conditions are on which the proposed transfer of the licence was approved of by the Government and whether those conditions have been fulfilled and whether the transfer has been completed;

(*g*) if not, whether there is any time-limit for the fulfilment of such conditions and, if so, what the period is within which the conditions ought to be fulfilled; and

(*h*) if the transfer is not completed, whether the Government had considered the advisability of granting licence to the municipality?

A.—(*a*) Yes; in December 1927 to Mr. K. C. Menon of Calicut.

(*b*) The terms of the licence are published in Part I of the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated the 20th December 1927. The licensee complied with the conditions of the licence in the first instance.

24th March 1934]

(*c*) There have been complaints and reports to this effect against the licensee.

(*d*) The Council in January last asked that the existing licence should be revoked and that a fresh licence should be granted to itself. The request for a licence to the Council was not considered because the Government considered that at the time there was not sufficient justification for revoking the existing licence.

(*e*) Yes.

(*f*), (*g*) & (*h*) A copy [a] of the Government Order sanctioning the assignment is attached.

B. Pocker Sahib Bahadur:—" May I know whether the Government will consider the request of the municipality to be granted licence, if the new company is not able to fulfil the conditions as they have undertaken to do?"

The Hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar:—" In the first place I am not prepared to answer a hypothetical question. In the second place I know that the company is fulfilling the conditions and obligations imposed upon it by the Government."

B. Pocker Sahib Bahadur:—" May I know the reason why the Government refused to consider the request of the municipality, and whether the request of the municipality was before the Government at the time when they consented to the assignment of the licence from Mr. K. C. Menon to this new company?"

The Hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar:—" Because the Government did not think it necessary to revoke the licence when the municipality applied for it."

B. Pocker Sahib Bahadur:—" Is it not a fact that Mr. K. C. Menon did not fulfil the conditions under which the licence was given and that the request of the municipality was before the Government then?"

The Hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar:—" The request of the municipality was before the Government. As I submitted on the floor of this House at the time of the general discussion on the Demand for Electricity, it was within the competence of the Government to revoke or not to revoke the licence, and the Government in their discretion thought that it would be extremely injurious to the public interests to revoke the licence."

B. Pocker Sahib Bahadur:—" Why did not the Government think it necessary to revoke the licence given to Mr. K. C. Menon in view of the fact that he did not fulfil the conditions?"

The Hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar:—" As I said more than once, I say again that in the interests of the small and big consumers of electricity and the interests of the people who have invested money on the concern, the Government thought that it would be extremely undesirable to revoke the licence."

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[a] Printed as Appendix III on pages 849–850 infra.

[24th March 1934

B. POCKER SAHIB Bahadur:—"Is it in the interest of the people that the Government should prefer a private body to the municipality?"

The Hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"My friend, who is a lawyer, ought to know what the provisions of the Electricity Act are. The municipality can get it only after the licence is revoked. And the Government have no right to compel the licensee to transfer the licence to the municipality."

(For further list of starred questions, please see page 777 infra.)

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS.

Local Self-Government.

Assessment of scavenging tax on the Madura Mills Company by the Tuticorin Municipal Council.

858 *Q.*—Mr. W. K. M. LANGLEY: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Local Self-Government Department issued G.O. Ms. No. 132, L. & M., dated 6th January 1934, asking the Municipal Council to reconsider its decision in the matter of the assessment of scavenging tax of the Tuticorin Municipal Council on the Madura Mills Company;

(*b*) whether notwithstanding this Government Order, the Municipal Council at its meeting on 9th February 1934, insisted on a continuance of the scavenging tax; and

(*c*) what further action the Government propose to take in the matter; and

(*d*) whether the Government propose to effect an amendment of the District Municipalities Act in order to render section 83 (4) mandatory?

A.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The Manager, Madura Mills Company, Ltd., Tuticorin, brought the fact to the notice of the Government.

(*c*) The Government do not propose to take any further action in the matter.

(*d*) No.

Electricity.

Purchase of posts and insulators for the Pykara Hydro-Electric Scheme.

859 *Q.*—Mr. M. B. RANGASWAMI REDDI: Will the Hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of posts for the line purchased locally during the year 1933–34 for the Pykara Hydro-Electric Scheme;

(*b*) whether they are made of Indian materials or whether they are imported;